



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BPS TELEPHONE CUSTOMERS TO RECEIVE EXPANDED LOCAL CALLING

JEFFERSON CITY--BPS Telephone Company customers in the Bernie, Parma and Steele exchanges will receive expanded, one-way toll-free local calling under an agreement approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission. That agreement will reduce the annual telephone revenues of BPS Telephone Company by approximately \$460,000.

Most of the reduction, approximately \$380,000, will come from implementation of an expanded one-way local calling plan. Under the agreement, BPS Telephone Company will also reduce intrastate access rates for long-distance carriers using the BPS Telephone Company system to carry a long-distance call.

Currently, customers in the Company's Bernie, Parma and Steele exchanges have local calling only within their individual exchange. Under the agreement approved by the PSC, BPS Telephone Company customers will have toll-free, expanded local calling. The expanded one-way local calling plan appears below:

<u>Originating Exchange</u>		<u>Terminating Exchange</u>
Bernie	to	Parma
	to	Malden
Parma	to	Bernie
	to	Risco
	to	New Madrid
	to	Lilbourn
	to	Essex
Steele	to	Caruthersville
	to	Hornersville
	to	Deering

Customers in the originating exchange will be able to call individuals in the terminating exchange as part of their current local exchange rate. Calls will be dialed on a local (seven digit dial) basis. The plan is limited to voice traffic and is not available for internet and data calling.

This case began as a result of a PSC Staff audit conducted on the books and records of the BPS Telephone Company. Based upon that audit, the PSC Staff recommended telephone revenues be reduced. The agreement approved by the Commission was submitted by the PSC Staff, the Office of the Public Counsel and BPS Telephone Company. A party in this case, Southwestern Bell Telephone, L.P., d/b/a SBC Missouri does not oppose the agreement.

BPS Telephone Company serves approximately 3,800 subscribers in southeast Missouri.